

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 SCCT-02 NIC-01 USSS-00 SY-04 FBIE-00

EB-11 SCA-01 A-01 M-02 IO-14 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 063140

R 182107Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8156

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJ: ATTACK ON CHILEAN EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES

REF: BA 6973; SANTIAGO 5688

1. SUMMARY: ADMIRAL MERINO'S ACCOUNT IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT WITH ONE MAJOR EXCEPTION. ARGENTINE DEFENSE MINISTER SAVINO AND MOST OTHER GUESTS HAD LEFT EMBASSY BY TIME ATTACK OCCURRED. HAD THEY BEEN PRESENT, THE SECURITY THAT ACCOMPANIES THE MINISTER WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DISCOURAGED THE ATTEMPT. END SUMMARY.

2. ADMIRAL MERINO'S ACCOUNT IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. AT 2310 ON SEP 14 A CAR PASED IN FRONT OF CHILEAN EMBASSY AND FIRED SEVERAL VOLLEYS. AT SAME TIME, ANTI-TANK GRENADES WERE FIRED BY A MORTAR-LIKE DEVICE FROM THE PARK ACROSS THE STREET. AT LEAST 4 GRENADES EXPLODED. TWO MORE WERE FOUND THE NEXT DAY AND DETONATED BY THE POLICE. THIS ALL REPORTED BY PRESS HERE.

3. A COMMUNIQUE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACT WAS ISSUED BY THE LIBERATION ARMED FORCES--22 AUGUST (FAL--22AUG).
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THIS IS A LESSER TERRORIST ORGANIZATION BY ARGENTINE STANDARDS.

THEY COMMIT OCCASIONAL BUT SPECTACULAR ACTS AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON US EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN SEP 73 AND SHERATON HOTEL IN OCT 73. IN BOTH CASES THE SAME MORTAR-TYPE DEVICE WAS USED.

4. DEFENSE MINISTER AND MOST OTHER GUESTS HAD LEFT BY TIME ATTACK OCCURRED. IF THEY HAD BEEN PRESENT THE SECURITY THAT ACCOMPANIES THE MINISTER PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DISCOURAGED THE ATTACK. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR IN FACT COMPLAINED NEXT DAY TO AMBASSADOR HILL THAT THE SECURITY WHICH WAS ADEQUATE WHILE THE MINISTER WAS THERE VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED UPON HIS DEPARTURE.
HILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE SANTIAGO
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